## Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 55

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to the 85th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 27, 2005.]

ACR 40, Lieber. League of Women Voters' 85th Anniversary.

This measure would recognize the origins and accomplishments of the League of Women Voters, and would memorialize the 85th anniversary of that organization.

WHEREAS, In the year 1911, California became the sixth state to give women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, In the year 1920, after decades of fighting for the right to vote, women believed they had a responsibility to participate in public debate, and to educate voters about the important issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, On February 14, 1920, at the final convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago, the League of Women Voters was born, in anticipation of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which would provide a constitutional guarantee of a woman's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, In the 1920's, the League of Women Voters secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health care program, the Sheppard-Towner Act; and

WHEREAS, In the 1930's, the League worked diligently on American foreign policy and received an award for its efforts from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960's and 1970's the League fought against discrimination in education, employment, and housing and built citizen support for economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The League is a nonpartisan organization that has fought for a wide-variety of issues, from free trade and the creation of the United Nations to civil rights and compulsory public education; and

WHEREAS, Other causes the League has championed include education programs to counter attacks on civil liberties, nuclear arms control, environmental regulation, a responsible state budgeting process, and protection of the rights of voters; and

WHEREAS, The League continues to battle for campaign finance reform, United States support of emerging democracies, universal healthcare, and reform of the electoral system; and

WHEREAS, The League may best be known for its sponsorship of political debates, and providing voters with a nonpartisan, issue-oriented forum from which they may make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, In California, the League of Women Voters has continually provided reliable nonpartisan information to voters through its printed Pros & Cons on ballot measures, through its debates for certain elected offices, through its forums held throughout the state on critical topics such as state and local finance, growth and infrastructure, and constitutional revision, and through its creation of the internationally honored online election guide, Smart Voter, promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, Across the United States, the League has 900 local and state Leagues, including 69 local Leagues and more than 11,000 members in California; and

WHEREAS, The commitment of its members has transformed the League of Women Voters from "the mighty political experiment" that began in 1920, when it was designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women carry out their voting responsibilities, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan organization of men and women recognized as a force in mentoring political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the people of California hereby recognize the important and unique contributions of the League of Women Voters during its 85-year history as a nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing voter awareness and participation; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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